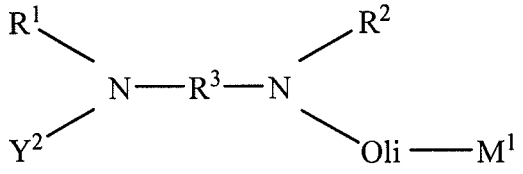
AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph no. [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] A second production method of the modified conjugated diene polymer according to the invention is characterized in that (i) the diamine compound of the formula (VI) is added with the silyl compound of the formula (VII) to form a silylated diamine compound of the formula (VIII);

(ii) the silylated diamine compound is added with the organic alkali metal compound or the organic alkaline earth metal compound to form the polymerization initiator of the formula (V);

(iii) the polymerization initiator is added to a solution containing a conjugated diene compound to produce a low molecular weight polymer represented by the following formula (IX):



(IX)

(wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, Y^2 and M^1 are the same meaning as mentioned above; a part of R^1, R^2, R^3 ~~nd~~ and Y^2 may be bonded to each other to form a cyclic structure; ~~Oil~~ Oli is an oligomer or polymer portion formed by polymerizing 3-300 conjugated diene compounds); and

(iv) the low molecular weight polymer is added to a solution containing a conjugated diene compound or a solution containing a conjugated diene compound and an aromatic vinyl compound. In the formation of the polymerization initiator of the formula (V), the silylated diamine compound of the formula (VIII) may be used after the purification by a proper method, or a crude reaction product solution of the silylated diamine compound of the formula (VIII) may be used as it is.